

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): In a device for solid phase micro-extraction, the improvement comprising:

a porous sheath adapted to pierce a septum,
said porous sheath containing having active extraction media contained therein to protect the active extraction media from exposure outside the sheath and possible damage thereby, and having perforations along at least a section of length thereof which enable the active extraction media for carrying to carry out a solid phase micro-extraction process from within the sheath.

Claim 2 (original): The improvement of Claim 1,

wherein said porous sheath comprises a tube adapted to be connected to a syringe.

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Cancelled*
Claim 3 (cancelled)

Claim 4 (currently amended): The improvement of Claim 3 2,

wherein said perforations are located along substantially an entire length of said tube.

Claim 5 (original): The improvement of Claim 2,

wherein said tube includes an end section selected from the group consisting of a closed end section and an open end section.

Claim 6 (original): The improvement of Claim 5,

wherein said tube includes an end section selected from the group consisting of a flat end section and a pointed end section.

Claim 7 (original): The improvement of Claim 2,

wherein said tube includes an end section selected from the group consisting of a flat end section and a pointed end section.

Claim 8 (original): The improvement of Claim 3 1,

wherein said perforations have a configuration, selected from the group consisting of circular and elongated.

Claim 9 (original): The improvement of Claim 2,

wherein said tube includes a section configured to form a seal when said tube is inserted through a septum.

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Claim 10 (currently amended): A porous protective sheath for solid phase micro-extraction, comprising:

a porous tube adapted to pierce a septum,

said porous tube having an end section selected from the group consisting of a closed section and an open end section,

said porous tube being provided with at least a section along a length thereof having perforations,

said porous tube containing having an active extraction media contained therein to protect the active extraction media from exposure outside the sheath and possible damage thereby, and wherein the perforations enable the active extraction media for carrying out to carry out solid phase micro-extraction from within the porous tube.

Claim 11 (original): The sheath of Claim 10,

wherein said perforations are located along a substantial length of said tube.

Claim 12 (original): The sheath of Claim 10,

wherein said end section has a configuration selected from the group consisting of flat and pointed end sections.

Claim 13 (original): The sheath of Claim 10,

wherein said perforations have a configuration selected from the groups consisting of circular and non-circular.

Claim 14 (original): The sheath of Claim 10,

wherein said tube is constructed from materials selected from the group consisting of metals and metal alloys.

*a
and*
Claim 15 (original): The sheath of Claim 10,

where said tube additionally includes a section configured to form a seal with an object through which said tube extends.

Claim 16 (original): The sheath of Claim 10,

in combination with an apparatus constructed such that said tube can be retracted into or extended from said apparatus.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The sheath of Claim 10,

wherein said tube is constructed of material having a strength sufficient to carry out a septum piercing operation with without damage to said tube.

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cont'd*
Claim 18 (new): The sheath of Claim 10,

wherein said active extraction media has a loose particulate composition and said perforations are sized smaller than the active extraction media to keep the active extraction media entrapped within the sheath.

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Claim 19 (new): The sheath of Claim 10,

wherein said active extraction media is cold-pressed onto and within the sheath.

Claim 20 (new): The sheath of Claim 1,

wherein said active extraction media has a loose particulate composition and said perforations are sized smaller than the active extraction media to keep the active extraction media entrapped within the sheath.

Claim 21 (new): The sheath of Claim 1,

wherein said active extraction media is cold-pressed onto and within the sheath.
